

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT TELEPOUCH

DISP NO - EGMA-70903

FILE NO - C J

DATE - 16 OCTOBER 1967

TO - CHIEF, EUROPEAN DIVISION

- CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY

FROM - CHIEF OF BASE, MUNICH

SUBJECT - RYBAT/CATUSK

UTILITY AND SUCCESSION

ACTION - FYI

REF - MUNICH 0927

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

for weekly note?
YR. **1**

1. IN A CONVERSATION 13 OCTOBER 1967, UTILITY TOLD L J THAT HE DEFINITELY EXPECTS TO BE AROUND UNTIL SPRING OF 1969. WHEN ASKED IF THIS WOULD BE IN A CONSULTANT CAPACITY, UTILITY EMPHATICALLY RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AS THE PRESIDENT OF CATUSK. HIS SUCCESSOR, WHOEVER HE MAY BE, WILL NOT BE NAMED UNTIL DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR, OR POSSIBLY JANUARY 1968. UTILITY STILL IS OF THE OPINION THAT GENERAL WESSEL WILL SUCCEED HIM. HE ADDED THAT, NO MATTER WHO THE SUCCESSOR IS, AT LEAST A YEAR'S OVERLAP WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE NEW MAN TO ACCUMULATE A SUFFICIENT STORE OF KNOWLEDGE OF CATUSK BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT UP IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS. OTHERWISE, UTILITY STATES, HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD FIND TOO GREAT A KNOWLEDGEABILITY GAP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE TOP DOZEN CATUSK STAFFERS ON WHOM HE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSTANTLY DEPENDENT.

2. WHEN ASKED WHOSE WOULD BE THE INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT HIS STAYING ON UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1969, UTILITY REPLIED IT WOULD BE THE CHANCELLOR'S ALONE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WOULD NEVER DIRECTLY MAKE THE REQUEST TO BE RETAINED BEYOND HIS LEGAL RETIREMENT AGE, BUT THAT HE FELT CONFIDENT THAT THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF WOULD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH AN OVERLAP WOULD BE VITAL. IN THIS REGARD, UTILITY FEELS THAT HIS STRESSING TO THE CHANCELLOR THE

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NECESSITY FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS OF EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND DIRECTION EXPERIENCE, TOGETHER WITH A LIKELY PROSPECT OF TEN YEARS' AVAILABILITY PRIOR TO RETIREMENT, IS UNDERSTOOD AND CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE CHANCELLOR. THE CHANCELLOR FURTHERMORE HAS PROMISED UTILITY THAT THE MATTER OF SUCCESSION WILL NOT BE INVOLVED WITH ANY POLITICAL "HORSE TRADING."

3. WITH REGARD TO THE SPD'S POSITION IN THE MATTER, UTILITY IS OF THE OPINION, BASED UPON TALKS WITH HERBERT R. WEHNER [

] THAT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE CHANCELLOR TOWARDS CHOOSING A CIVILIAN OUTSIDER FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THE TOP TWO POSITIONS, BUT NOT TO THE POINT OF DRAGGING THE ISSUE OUT OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. IN THIS VEIN, HE STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH WEHNER THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DR. GUENTER REDDING [], THE HEAD OF THE LFV IN HAMBURG, WHOM WEHNER CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SPD CANDIDATE. UTILITY TOLD WEHNER THAT EXPERIENCE GAINED WITH THE LFV IN HAMBURG OR WITH ANY LFV, OR WITH THE BFV, DOES NOT SATISFY THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CATSK POSITION. IN OTHER WORDS, CANDIDATES WITH ONLY INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE BACKGROUND WOULD NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND ASSOCIATED DUTIES AND PROBLEMS. UTILITY STATED THAT WEHNER ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF THIS VIEWPOINT AND, IN REDDING'S CASE, ADMITTED THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT FIT THE BILL.

4. IF, DESPITE THE ASSURANCES MENTIONED ABOVE, A "HORSE TRADING" ACTION OCCURS RESULTING IN AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESSOR BEING NAMED, UTILITY WOULD BE FORCED TO ENTER THE POLITICAL FIELD HIMSELF. IN DOING SO, HIS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF RETAINING A NON-POLITICAL GERMAN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE STAFFED WITH OFFICERS SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AND QUALITY RATHER THAN THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS.

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